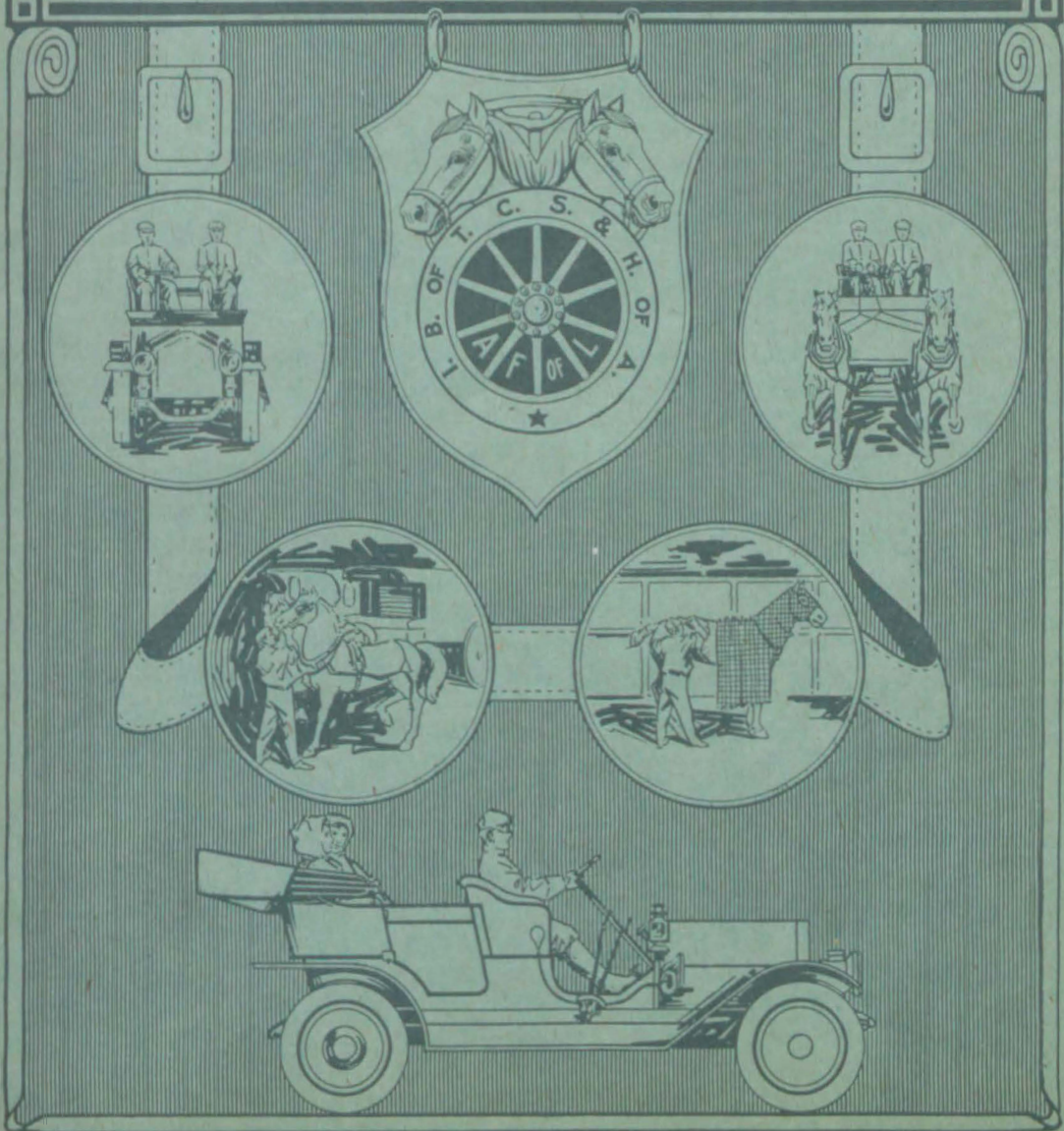


JUNE, 1917

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS • CHAUFFEURS
STABLEMEN AND HELPERS
OF AMERICA



Local Union No. 734, Bakery Wagon Drivers of Chicago, settled up its grievance with its employers, obtaining an advance in wages of \$2.00 a week.

The building material drivers of Cleveland recently signed up an agreement with their employers obtaining a substantial increase in wages. The building industry was threatened with a general shut down as a result of the strike of the drivers.

Our unions throughout the country are undoubtedly proving that they intend to carry out the wishes of the national government in Washington by avoiding trouble as much as possible. It is necessary that even before men go on strike that they offer to arbitrate the question at issue. If the employers refuse to arbitrate the vital question, then they are to blame and when they take this stand then trouble takes place.

Local No. 72 of Lowell, Mass., recently signed up its agreement and received a substantial increase in wages, and everything is running along splendidly in that organization. The membership seems to be alive to the necessity of working on the street, so that all who are entitled to membership in that local shall be initiated in the near future.

— OFFICIAL MAGAZINE — INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS·CHAUFFEURS ·STABLEMEN AND HELPERS·



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AMERICAN LABOR'S POSITION IN PEACE OR IN WAR



We speak for millions of Americans. We are not a sect. We are not a party. We represent the organizations held together by the pressure of our

common needs. We represent the part of the nation closest to the fundamentals of life. Those we represent wield the nation's tools and grapple with the forces that are brought under control in our material civilization. The power and use of industrial tools is greater than the tools of war and will in time supersede agencies of destruction.

A world war is on. The time has not yet come when war has been abolished.

Whether we approve it or not, we must recognize that war is a situation with which we must reckon. The present European war, involving as it does the majority of civilized nations and affecting the industry and commerce of the whole world, threatens at any moment to draw all countries, including our own, into the conflict. Our immediate problem, then, is to bring to bear upon war conditions instructive forethought, vision, principles of human welfare and conservation that should direct our course in every eventuality of life. The way to avert war is to estab-

lish constructive agencies for justice in times of peace and thus control for peace situations and forces that might otherwise result in war.

The methods of modern warfare, its new tactics, its vast organization, both military and industrial, present problems vastly different from those of previous wars. But the nation's problems afford an opportunity for the establishment of new freedom and wider opportunities for all the people. Modern warfare includes contests between workshops, factories, the land, financial and transportation resources of the countries involved; and necessarily applies to the relations between employers and employes, and as our own country now faces an impending peril, it is fitting that the masses of the people of the United States should take counsel and determine what course they shall pursue should a crisis arise necessitating the protection of our republic and defense of the ideals for which it stands.

In the struggle between the forces of democracy and special privilege, for just and historic reasons the masses of the people necessarily represent the ideals and the institutions of democracy. There is in organized society one potential organization whose purpose is to further these ideals and institutions—the organized labor movement.

In no previous war has the organized labor movement taken a directing part.

Labor has now reached an understanding of its rights, of its power and resources, of its value and contributions to society, and must make definite constructive proposals.

It is timely that we frankly present experiences and conditions which in former times have prevented nations from benefiting by the voluntary, whole-hearted co-operation of wage-earners in war

time, and then make suggestions how these hindrances to our national strength and vigor can be removed.

War has never put a stop to the necessity for struggle to establish and maintain industrial rights. Wage-earners in war times must, as has been said, keep one eye on the exploiters at home and the other upon the enemy threatening the national government. Such exploitation made it impossible for a warring nation to mobilize effectively its full strength for outward defense.

We maintain that it is the fundamental step in preparedness for the nation to set its own house in order and to establish at home justice in relations between men. Previous wars, for whatever purpose waged, developed new opportunities for exploiting wage-earners. Not only was there failure to recognize the necessity for protecting rights of workers that they might give that whole-hearted service to the country that can come only when every citizen enjoys rights, freedom and opportunity, but under guise of national necessity, labor was stripped of its means of defense against enemies at home and was robbed of the advantages, the protections, the guarantees of justice that had been achieved after ages of struggle. For these reasons workers have felt that no matter what the result of war, as wage-earners they generally lost.

In previous times labor had no representatives in the councils authorized to deal with the conduct of war. The rights, interests and welfare of workers were autocratically sacrificed for the slogan of "national safety."

The European war has demonstrated the dependence of the governments upon the co-operation of the masses of the people. Since the masses perform indispensable service, it follows that they should have

a voice in determining the conditions upon which they give service.

The workers of America make known their beliefs, their demands and their purposes through a voluntary agency which they have established—the organized labor movement. This agency is not only the representative of those who directly constitute it, but it is the representative of all those persons who have common problems and purposes but who have not yet organized for their achievement.

Whether in peace or in war the organized labor movement seeks to make all else subordinate to human welfare and human opportunity. The labor movement stands as the defender of this principle and undertakes to protect the wealth-producers against the exorbitant greed of special interests, against profiteering, against exploitation, against the detestable methods of irresponsible greed, against the inhumanity and crime of heartless corporations and employers.

Labor demands the right in war times to be the recognized defender of wage-earners against the same forces which in former wars have made national necessity an excuse for more ruthless methods.

As the representatives of the wage-earners we assert that conditions of work and pay in government employment and in all occupations should conform to principles of human welfare and justice.

A nation can not make an effective defense against an outside danger if groups of citizens are asked to take part in a war though smarting with a sense of keen injustice inflicted by the government they are expected to and will defend.

The cornerstone of national defense is justice in fundamental relations of life—economic justice.

The one agency which accomplishes this for the workers is the organized labor movement. The

greatest step that can be made for national defense is not to bind and throttle the organized labor movement, but to afford its greatest scope and opportunity for voluntary effective co-operation in spirit and in action.

During the long period in which it has been establishing itself, the labor movement has become a dynamic force in organizing the human side of industry and commerce. It is a great social factor, which must be recognized in all plants which affect wage-earners.

Whether planning for peace or war the government must recognize the organized labor movement as the agency through which it must co-operate with wage-earners.

Industrial justice is the right of those living within our country. With this right there is associated obligation. In war time obligation takes the form of service in defense of the republic against enemies.

We recognize that this service may be either military or industrial, both equally essential for national defense. We hold this to be incontrovertible that the government which demands that men and women give their labor power, their bodies or their lives to its service should also demand the service, in the interest of these human beings, of all wealth and the products of human toil—property.

We hold that if workers may be asked in time of national peril or emergency to give more exhausting service than the principles of human welfare warrant, that service should be asked only when accompanied by increased guarantees and safeguards, and when the profits which the employer shall secure from the industry in which they are engaged have been limited to fixed percentages.

We declare that such determination of profits should be based on costs of processes actually needed for product.

Workers have no delusions regarding the policy which property owners and exploiting employers pursue in peace or in war and they also recognize that, wrapped up with the safety of this republic, are ideals of democracy, a heritage which the masses of the people received from our forefathers, who fought that liberty might live in this country—a heritage that is to be maintained and handed down to each generation with undiminished power and usefulness.

The labor movement recognizes the value of freedom and it knows that freedom and rights can be maintained only by those willing to assert their claims and to defend their rights. The American labor movement has always opposed unnecessary conflicts and all wars for aggrandizement, exploitation and enslavement, and yet it has done its part in the world's revolution, in the struggles to establish greater freedom, democratic institutions and ideals of human justice.

Our labor movement distrusts and protests against militarism, because it knows that militarism represents privilege and is the tool of special interests, exploiters and despots. But while it opposes militarism, it holds that it is the duty of a nation to defend itself against injustice and invasion.

The menace of militarism arises through isolating the defensive functions of the State from civic activities and from creating military agencies out of touch with the masses of the people. Isolation is subversive to democracy—it harbors and nurtures the germs of arbitrary power.

The labor movement demands that a clear differentiation be made against military service for the nation and police duty, and that military service should be carefully distinguished from service in industrial disputes.

We hold that industrial service

shall be deemed equally meritorious as military service. Organization for industrial and commercial service is upon a different basis from military service—the civic ideals still dominate. This should be recognized in mobilizing for this purpose. The same voluntary institutions that organized industrial, commercial and transportation workers in times of peace will best take care of the same problems in time of war.

It is fundamental, therefore, that the government co-operate with the American organized labor movement for this purpose. Service in government factories and private establishments, in transportation agencies, all should conform to trade union standards.

The guarantees of human conservation should be recognized in war as well as in peace. Wherever changes in the organization of industry are necessary upon a war basis, they should be made in accord with plans agreed upon by representatives of the government and those engaged and employed in the industry. We recognize that in war, in certain employments requiring high skill, it is necessary to retain in industrial service the workers specially fitted therefor. In any eventuality when women may be employed, we insist that equal pay for equal work shall prevail without regard to sex.

Finally, in order to safeguard all the interests of the wage-earners organized labor should have representation on all agencies determining and administering policies for national defense. It is particularly important that organized labor should have representatives on all boards authorized to control publicity during war times. The workers have suffered much injustice in war times by limitations upon their right to speak freely and to secure publicity for their just grievances.

Organized labor has earned the right to make these demands. It is the agency that, in all countries, stands for human rights and is the defender of the welfare and interests of the masses of the people. It is an agency that has international recognition which is not seeking to rob, exploit or corrupt foreign governments, but instead seeks to maintain human rights and interests the world over, nor does it have to dispel suspicion nor prove its motives either at home or abroad.

The present war discloses the struggle between the institutions of democracy and those of autocracy. As a nation we should profit from the experiences of other nations. Democracy can not be established by patches upon an autocratic system. The foundations of civilized intercourse between individuals must be organized upon principles of democracy and scientific principles of human welfare. Then a national structure can be perfected in harmony with humanitarian idealism—a structure that will stand the tests of the necessities of peace or war.

We, the officers of the National and International Trade Unions of America, in national conference as-

sembled in the Capital of our nation, hereby pledge ourselves in peace or in war, in stress or in storm, to stand unreservedly by the standards of liberty and the safety and preservation of the institutions and ideals of our republic.

In this solemn hour of our nation's life, it is our earnest hope that our republic may be safeguarded in its unswerving desire for peace; that our people may be spared the horrors and the burdens of war; that they may have the opportunity to cultivate and develop the arts of peace, human brotherhood and a higher civilization.

But, despite all our endeavors and hopes, should our country be drawn into the maelstrom of the European conflict, we, with these ideals of liberty and justice herein declared, as the indispensable basis for national policies, offer our services to our country in every field of activity to defend, safeguard and preserve the Republic of the United States of America against its enemies, whomsoever they may be, and we call upon our fellow workers and fellow citizens in the holy name of Labor, Justice, Freedom and Humanity to devotedly and patriotically give like service.

LOYALTY OF OUR TRADE UNIONISTS



THE spontaneous manifestation of loyalty displayed by the trade union movement, both in its pre-war declaration and in the statements of trade union leaders and union bodies since war was declared, has undoubtedly left a very favorable impression upon public opinion. It should not afford grounds, however, for those inimical or indifferent to the interests

of labor, to read into labor's loyal attitude a tacit surrender of those inherent rights and constitutional safeguards which labor, in pledging its unswerving service to the nation in this time of crisis, had no intention of relinquishing.

All this is brought home very clearly in an article which appeared in "The New Republic" recently. We quote it chiefly because it apprehends with unusual clearness obstacles which may hamper the efficient co-operation of the trade unions in the industrial serv-

ice required of them and also presents means by which such obstacles may be offset. It reads:

"Mr. Gompers has repeatedly assured the country of the loyalty of labor. Recently he recommended that the council of national defense should 'issue a statement to employers and employees in our industrial plants and transportation systems advising that neither employers nor employees shall endeavor to take advantage of the country's necessities to change existing standards.' With singular unanimity the press has magnified this recommendation into a guarantee against strikes and all forms of industrial unrest.

"But patriotic manifestos, unsupported by definite administrative plans, offer no such guarantee. Existing standards are changed day by day through the rising cost of food. Workers cannot do efficient work on a diet of loyalty. The government has entered into contracts with certain manufacturers to deliver munitions at a fixed price. These prices are based upon existing rates of wages. The contracts, which are for a definite period, apparently make no provision for an adjustment of prices to increased cost of production. Already the Department of Agriculture forecasts a serious shortage in the wheat crop. If the cost of food rises sharply the workers in these plants may be forced to demand an increase in wages. Ought not the council of national defense to provide against such contingencies? Would not the government be wise to include in these contracts a provision for the establishment of joint conciliation committees upon whose recommendation the terms of the contracts might be made flexibly adjustable to changing market conditions? It was almost a year after the outbreak of war that England created her munitions tribunals to deal

with just such problems. In their absence strikes were frequent notwithstanding the patriotism of labor. Ought we not to profit by England's experience?

"Unless Mr. Gompers and the council of national defense offer specific guidance, the local and State authorities and the official representatives of organized labor are likely to repeat other well intentioned blunders that hampered England during the first eighteen months of the war.

"On March 28 the New York State Federation of Labor, speaking 'for the men and women, aye, and the children of labor * * * who will cheerfully make not only this, but other sacrifices on our country's altar,' gave advance approval to the suspension of 'those statutes that safeguard our industrial population.' A few days later a bill appeared in the State assembly designed to sweep away all restrictions, not only upon the employment of men, but also upon the hours and night work of women and children. This is sheer bathos of misguided sentiment. The experience of England proves that men who work overtime and especially those who sacrifice their one day of rest in seven suffer a steady loss of productive capacity. The records of the English factory inspectors show that for the coldly practical purpose of sustained output, night work for women and children is bad policy. One manager reported that fatigue prevented many of the women from making the effort to go from their work to the mess-room. In another factory, also visited at night, several women spent the meal hour lying beside their piles of heaped-up work, while others were later found asleep beside their machines. 'Taking the country as a whole,' says the English health of munition workers' committee, 'we are bound to record our impres-

sion that the munition workers in general have been allowed to reach a state of reduced efficiency and lowered health which might have been avoided' by reasonable precautions.

"We shall blunder seriously if we proceed on the assumption that our factory laws were designed to hamper employers in the efficient conduct of their business. They are founded not on sentiment, but on science and economic intelligence. Health and efficiency alike depend upon their enforcement. For this reason it would be practical folly to entrust their suspension to well meaning amateurs. No modifications, even for short periods, should be permitted except upon the advice and under the control of physiological experts. The industrial army needs its trained medical corps quite as much as the regiments at the front.

"As precautionary measures against labor unrest and deterioration we venture the following suggestions:

"1. Conciliation or adjustment committees should be established in all government plants and in all private plants under contract with the government. Upon these committees employers and employes should have equal representation. It would be their duty to deal with disputes at the original point of friction. In case of their inability to bring about a satisfactory adjustment appeal should be taken to a conciliation board expressly provided by the council of national defense.

"The urgent need for some such machinery is shown by the history of a strike reported recently from Memphis, Tenn. The Continental Piston Ring Company manufactures piston rings for aeroplanes used at the government aviation school. The Federal court granted an injunction restraining the leaders in charge of the strike

from interfering with the operation of the plant. 'Federal agents,' says the news item, 'have started an investigation and arrests may follow if it can be shown that the strike was called with a view to embarrassing the company in filling war orders.' Nothing is said about wages, hours or other conditions of employment. No reference is made to any possible valid grievance of the workers. Are detectives and injunctions the best means of developing the loyalty of labor? At this time of national tension would not a system of co-operative adjustment and conciliation be a better risk?

"2. A health conservation board, corresponding to the general munitions board announced last Tuesday by the council of national defense, is imperatively needed to supervise health conditions in government plants and to co-operate with similar State boards in the regulation of private plants under contract with the government. Dr. Frederick Martin of the council of national defense is thoroughly qualified to head such an organization. No labor laws should be suspended or modified except after investigation and approval by this body of experts. Indeed, it would be to the best interest of the nation if the government could be persuaded to make minimum standards of hours, wages and shop conditions integral parts of all munition contracts. In wartime the workers will be willing to forego comforts and to work nearer the margin of physical exhaustion than in times of peace, but the country cannot afford the extravagance of paying for work done during incapacity from fatigue or the further extravagance of urging armies of workmen toward relative incapacity by neglect of proved physiological law."

EDITORIAL

(By Daniel J. Tobin.)

MANY of the so-called welfare workers and college professors who are anxious to save the masses of the people, are, at this time, very free with their advice to the toilers as to how they can get along and live without this and without that. They advise us to eat greens and grass, sunflowers and dandelions, instead of bread and meat—many of those college professors have never done a hard day's work during their whole existence. They tell us we can obtain the same results insofar as nutrition is concerned by eating straw as can be obtained by eating mother's home-baked bread or baked beans. They tell us that lime water contains as much nutrition as milk and there are several chemical substances which they have prepared in their laboratories that are blood purifiers, muscle making, etc. It is certainly laughable to read some of the articles published in magazines and newspapers written by this myriad of life savers, but we who have been right up against the game for years know that to shovel coal, to load and unload freight, etc., we have to have corned beef, bread and beans, and that we can not do this work by eating dry leaves which have fallen from the trees. A half-starved teamster or chauffeur is not much good for anything. When a man has to get up at five-thirty in the morning and work until six-thirty in the evening, lifting, loading, pulling, hauling and driving, he is not very happy when he goes home to have his wife or mother set before him for his evening meal a dish of dry potato skins instead of the real potato, although those professors try to tell us that the peeling from the potato is much more substantial and nutritious than the real potato. Then again they go on, and in their simple-minded way try to convince the numerous millions of poor workers that this is the greatest blessing that could come to our country—to have flour selling at \$20.00 a barrel, corned beef at \$1.00 a pound; that we have been so very wasteful; that this will instill into us the principle of economy. Again they prove their absolute ignorance of the poor and the workers. Go into the home of any working man for the past ten years, look into his cupboard; look upon his table, and see if anything has been wasted. We have been practicing forced economy for several years past, and instead of becoming economic experts, as they say, we are liable to become raving, starving maniacs; but the deluded welfare worker, the philanthropic millionaire and college professors are happy in the thought that they are advancing civilization by forcing us to pay \$20.00 a barrel for flour, 50 cents for each potato and 25 cents for each bean that we now use. It is like the statement that we often have thrown at us by the unjust employer, that driving a team or operating an automobile is wonderful employment. "Look," the employers say, "at the healthy men we have working for us." They do not seem to have brains enough to know that unless a man is healthy and almost a giant, he would not, in the first place, tackle the work. But in this day of extreme doctrines, where the ridiculous is stylish, where the so-called educated class believe they have the toilers right under their thumb by squeezing the life-blood out of them through high prices, it may be possible that we have reached where we have wanted to get—the turning point. Yes, it may be possible that this is a

blessing in disguise for undoubtedly the people will not stand for much more. They will rise up and assert their rights. If it has been possible for the trampled millions in Russia, who were held at the point of the bayonet in absolute submission for centuries, if it has been possible for them to liberate themselves from the chains of autocracy and cruelty with which they were encircled, it must be possible for American men and women to free themselves from the shackles of high prices now binding them body and soul. It may be that this war may result in the government enacting legislation which will take away all over and above an honest return on money invested, or all excessive profits, and perhaps this government of ours will do as they are doing in other countries—take over the control of telegraph, telephone, lighting plants and other public utilities, and perhaps this government of ours, through the action of Congress, will take over the food products of the nation and see that they are distributed to the toilers at reasonable prices. Yes, this condition may be a blessing to the workers. Let us hope that it is for the best, but in the meantime always remember that self-preservation is the first law of nature. Also remember the old saying: "He that lives upon hope shall die fasting." Do not forget that we are living in the present, for the present, as much as for the future, and be sure and hold what you have obtained in wages and conditions. Allow no change to take place except a change for your betterment.

AN attempt is being made in Washington to increase the postal rates on all second-class matter for the purpose of obtaining sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of the war in which we are now engaged. We are at present paying 1 cent per pound postage for the mailing of our Journal. The new revenue bill, now being discussed, will practically double the amount, or, in other words, raise the postage to 2 cents per pound and then establish the "zone" system which would cost us, in some instances, 6 cents per pound, depending on which part of the country the Journal is being mailed to. This would mean an enormous increase in the expense of the publication of the Journal. As it looks today this increase in the cost of postage is going to become effective unless sufficient pressure is brought to bear on Congress, but the committee in charge of preparing this revenue measure say that it is going to go right through with it because it needs the money. Our Journal is now costing us almost \$1,000 per month, due to the increase in the price of paper and ink, our increased circulation, etc., and if this change, or increase, in the cost of mailing the Journal becomes effective it will cost us a great deal more than at the present time. Our membership does not pay anything for the Journal, and with our small revenue, or per capita tax, it will be hard to meet this increased expense of mailing, in view of the fact that 50 per cent. of our entire revenue must be placed in the defense fund of the International Union for the protection of our unions that are engaged in conflicts with their employers for the betterment of their working conditions.

As we have stated before, our International Union is not as progressive as it should be. Our per capita tax is too low to carry on the business of our International Union. The more money paid into the International Union the better it is for the membership. Our per capita tax is only 15 cents per member per month—the very lowest of any International Union in America. Out of this per capita tax we have to pay

the American Federation of Labor our per capita, which amounts to about \$500 per month. We also have to meet all assessments levied on us by the American Federation of Labor. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor spends the money obtained from the International in endeavoring to protect the workers through legislation in Washington, and elsewhere, besides maintaining a staff of organizers throughout the country. We pay for our charter to the American Federation of Labor in the form of per capita tax, just the same as a local union pays to the International Union. After paying our large tax to the American Federation of Labor we have to set aside out of our 15 cents per month, $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents in the defense fund, and this year the defense fund has been taxed more than any other year, due to the many strikes that have taken place in our organization resulting from the disturbed condition brought about by the high cost of living. Out of this remaining $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents which is all we have left after paying our per capita tax to the American Federation of Labor, we have to maintain a Headquarters, pay for office help, pay salaries to officers and organizers; also their traveling expenses, etc. We can not afford to give up the publication of our Magazine because of the organizing work it has been doing for us throughout the country. Through the columns of our Magazine we reach the individual member at his home—he and his family read the Journal. We endeavor to teach our membership the principles of trade unionism as to the workings of the labor movement and of our International Union in particular.

We write this article at this time in order to have our membership understand what becomes of the finances of the International Union and the channels through which the money sent to the General Office are directed. A cheap, low-priced, low due-paying union is not much good for the membership. The higher the dues of the local union the better the local union will be. The higher the per capita to the International, the more power, the more influence will our International Union possess. We are behind the times when compared with other International Unions that have a high per capita tax attached to their International. This point has been neglected, but the membership should give it some thought. It is a serious proposition. Through the advancement of transportation one State is coming nearer to the other. We are becoming a more compact family; as separate units we can not exist. San Francisco needs Boston, and Boston needs Chicago and Chicago needs New York, should the membership become engaged in a conflict. Besides, if you do not need any assistance for yourself, when you help uplift the other fellow, you make your own position much stronger than before.

Most of the International Unions have reduced the size of their Journals, or reduced the quality of the paper, owing to the increased price on paper since the world became involved in this awful war, but our Journal has kept on just the same as it was before. We are using union-made paper in our publication; there are a great many labor journals and magazines that are not doing this. Our membership should realize the importance of taking care of their International Union because it is theirs. Every dollar sent to the International Office is accounted for. It is your money and the sooner you realize this the better it will be for you. We are running a business institution and it is operated under strict business methods. We can not afford to allow sympathy to govern our actions. The condition of the industrial world

today is serious. We want you to consider this situation, therefore we are endeavoring to place before you the fact that if conditions continue as they are, with prices increasing on everything, and if the expenses of the International continue to increase, the General Executive Board, which has the guidance and protection of the International Union in its hands, may be forced to request the membership to pay a slight increase in the per capita tax in order to maintain and continue the publication of the Journal. It will not be more than 5 cents per month, but that amount would help us very much, and if there is any left over it can be directed toward organizing, or turned into the general treasury for defense purposes. Five cents per month for the Journal from each local union will not be much of a hardship on any one, and it would be of great assistance to the International in carrying on the work in which it is engaged. Of course your Editor understands that matters of this kind should be taken up in the convention, but the convention does not take place for three years. In the meantime the General Executive Board acts as the convention between conventions, and anything that is done along this line will be referred to the local unions for their approval. We shall endeavor to avoid anything that will increase the expense or cause any serious trouble to our unions, but again we want to remind you that it may be necessary for us to submit some such proposition as stated above to our local unions for their approval. Again, we want to remind you that it is your union and that the General Officers are only the directors who are endeavoring to guide you to victory and steer you clear from the winds of adversity.

Get some action by your union on this subject; bring this matter up at the next meeting and have your secretary drop a line to the Editor stating what you think of this matter.

BETWEEN every issue of our Journal new circumstances arise in our country which places the average working man this month at a disadvantage over the conditions under which he labored last month, due of course, as we all know, to the increased cost of living resulting from the state of war that exists in our country. From all expert reports, governmental and otherwise, which we read in the papers, it has been emphatically stated that there is no necessity or any reason for the enormous prices on food stuffs now existing. All of the different departments in Washington that have made investigations openly claim that there is no real shortage and that a great deal of this price-increasing game has been brought about by speculators and gamblers. There are instances where the farmer has sold wheat at \$1.25 a bushel and this same wheat has sold at \$3.40 a bushel in the Chicago markets. One case has been presented to us where a car load of beans which sold for \$1,000.00, shipped from a western city to New York City, sold for \$2,000.00, never unloaded, shipped again to Philadelphia, then shipped to Chicago where it was sold at a still higher rate, and finally was shipped from Chicago to Boston and sold at a still higher rate, where the beans were unloaded and distributed by the retailer to the consumer at 34 cents a quart. Seven years ago those same kind of beans were sold at 5 cents a quart. This is the condition that makes it almost impossible for the working man to live. Is it any wonder that we have discontent? Is it any wonder that we rebel; that we protest; that we cry aloud for justice in these days when flour is being sold at \$18.00 a barrel, with children starving; with the flower of the nation about to

be drafted into the army; with a condition confronting us to which there seems to be no ending? Yes, the trouble is this, that we have allowed a condition to arise in our country whereby our industries are being manipulated by large moneyed interests; our government for years was controlled by corporations and trusts, and we are just now waking up to a realization of the serious condition of our country. With the government in Washington endeavoring to do everything that it can possibly do, yet there is much dissatisfaction because we say there are no actual results. Why does not our government immediately commandeer the food stuff of the nation? Why allow a gambling condition to exist in every stock market in the country? Why do not the lawmakers put into effect immediately a law giving the government control over the necessities of life? It took only twenty-four hours to put into effect the Adamson law, when the government and corporations were afraid of a tie-up of the industries of the nation. People are on the verge of starvation, and, although we are in a state of war, the workers must eat. The actual warfare in France is not much more serious than the serious condition existing in our large industrial centers at the present time. It is impossible to be continually preaching patience to the millions of workers and expect them to go on slaving day in and day out without any results, with less to eat this year than they had last year, and with a possibility of having still less next year. Men and women are becoming more intelligent and will not now submit to the lash as they did in days of old. There is a limit to the patience of the human race. Americanism is strong within us, but the human instinct of men and women is just the same today as it was centuries ago when they fought and lost their lives for the protection of their homes and their children; they are willing to do the same today. It would be well for the government to realize the serious condition of the country and to wake up before it is too late. This so-called freedom of ours seems to be slipping from our hands; we have reached the point today that even if a writer expresses himself as his conscience dictates he is faced with the threat of being called a disturber of the peace, but discontent breeds change. Discontent is the mother of ambition, and only those who have the backbone and nerve to say what they think, although it does not at all times please, are the individuals who are doing the uplift work among the toilers which is necessary today more than ever before. We remember very well a few years ago when the men who preached the doctrine of trade unionism were looked upon as renegades and called law-breakers, but were it not for the men who have gone before us who established the trade union movement for the workers where would we be today? By the establishment of the trade union movement it has made it possible for the workers to live as decent human beings and no matter what declarations are made by so-called representatives of labor, we are not going to lay down our rights to regulate our own conditions and surrender in a moment that which we fought for years to obtain. We are going to keep on struggling and fighting. Yes, and if they are going to keep on increasing the price of food products, or allowing this increase as a result of the gambling in stock markets, we are going to make them pay by obtaining better wages and better working conditions through our trade unions.

In this period of excitement do not lose your heads. If the draft law takes from your family some member of it you must submit, be patient. Hope and pray that he will return to you. If your union is

confronted with new conditions through the drafting of men into the army, your union must be watchful that those who succeed or take the places of the men drafted shall become members of the union. This is the great work that is now going to confront us. If the war lasts for two more years there will be a shortage of male labor in our country in all trades and callings and particularly in those belonging to the male sex in view of the nature of the work. If the young and healthy between the ages of twenty-one and thirty are taken away the union must admit to membership those under twenty-one and over thirty without discrimination. Do not wait until it is too late—start right in just as soon as the new men become employed. Do not allow the boss to tell you that this man, because he is older than the man whose place he has taken is not entitled to the same wages. Do not stand for this condition. See that our wage scale is carried out. This condition will confront you, and if you allow it to get away from you once, you will have an awful time trying to get it back. Maintain the conditions that you have; keep up the standard of wages; be watchful and careful, hoping and trusting that time which is the great healer of all things will straighten out the awful situation that now confronts us.

SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE?

Writing in the *Locomotive Engineers' Journal*, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers recalls this history of the United States supreme court:

"The United States is the only nation in the world with a written constitution, whose higher court exercises the power of vetoing the acts of a parliament or other legislative body. England has no written constitution and judges of her higher courts are removable by parliament, which is the supreme law-making power of the land.

"Our present constitution was adopted in 1787, and for a period of sixteen years, or until 1803, the question of the supreme court's veto was never raised when the case of *Marbury and Madison* was tried before that court, Chief Justice John Marshall rendering the decision. *Marbury* had been appointed justice of the peace of the District of Columbia by the retiring President, John Adams, but for want of time his commission was never delivered, *Marbury* suing the new Secretary of State, *Madison*, for the delivery of his commission. The court decided against *Marbury*, also rendering the startling decision that it not

only had the right to pass on that case, but also to veto any act of Congress that was contrary to the constitution. Thomas Jefferson, who was then President, would not have put the mandate of the court into effect if it had been made, and would have brought impeachment proceedings against Marshall, which the latter knew, but his ingenious argument of the power and rights of the supreme court had taken hold in the minds of many. Jefferson had very decided views in regard to the supreme court. He said its members were the sappers and miners working night and day to undermine the fabric of our confederation.

"Some years afterward in the '*Yazoo Claims*' case, in which the above principle was involved, Andrew Jackson, who was then President, ignored the mandate of the court. Said Jackson: '*John Marshall rendered a decision, now let's see him put it into effect,*' and it was never done.

"Succeeding Presidents could have followed the same course as Jefferson and Jackson except for that reverence for precedents and antiquity, and the result is, that 'the ashes of the dead jurists yet rule us from their urns.'"

CORRESPONDENCE



OAKLAND, CAL.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—I was instructed to notify you that it had been voted at our last meeting, May 15, 1917, that we reconsider our action of Feb. 27, 1917, in expelling Wm. Davis for scabbing at the Alameda Dairy Company and that he be reinstated in good standing on account of the fine work he has done for us in our fight with the Alameda Dairy Co. We would like you to publish this in the Journal as soon as possible and we hope to soon be able to write you that our fight is over with this firm.

Fraternally yours,
W. DANIELS, Secretary.

NEWARK, N. J.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—I have just obtained an increase of \$2.00 per week to be paid for the first time this Saturday for all the drivers and chauffeurs employed in the brick yards. This affects about one hundred men, about 25 per cent. of whom are members of Local 478. We are all working in any union stable or garage as we should be, the only requirement being a paid-up book in either Local.

Now, Brother Tobin, this is increasing these men's wages \$5.00 per week in less than two years and as it has been brought about without a strike or creating any ill feeling between employers and our organizations or the men employed in these places I feel that we are gradually showing both employers and employes that there is a benefit in dealing through our organization and we are overcoming a lot

of the prejudice with which we have had to contend in the past.

Hoping that this will meet with your approval and I feel that this letter or whatever part of it you see fit to use would be good material for our Magazine, I would like to have you publish it.

There is a good deal more organizing to be done in the building line for us, and this increase being brought about in the manner in which it was will help considerably toward accomplishing it, so with best wishes, I remain,

Yours fraternally,
JOHN MCGUIRE,
Business Agent.

TERRE HAUTE, IND.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—I wish to state to you the success we have had in getting our contracts signed for the next two years.

The Terre Haute pure milk drivers were successful in getting their agreement signed; also the ice cream drivers, and the wholesale grocery drivers, with the exception of a few minor changes as to overtime and fines, which we have agreed to.

Overtime is to be 40 cents an hour, as in our previous contracts, and fines have been eliminated altogether.

We accepted application for membership and initiated twelve bread drivers at our meeting, held last night, May 9. We expect to receive several more bread drivers' applications for membership before our next regular meeting is held.

Fraternally yours,
JACOB REDER,
Secretary L. U. 144.

MISCELLANY



BRITISH AND CANADIAN SOCIAL CONDITIONS



FIRST hand information of present-day social conditions in England and Canada was imparted to nearly 200 unionists, sympathizers and employers, members of the committee on labor of the advisory commission, council of national defense, at a meeting called by President Gompers, in the A. F. of L. building, Washington, D. C., recently, to hear the story from English and Canadian trade unionists. These workers were sent to America by their respective governments on invitation of President Gompers.

British conditions were explained by Charles W. Bowerman, member of parliament and secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, and James H. Thomas, member of parliament and general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen of Great Britain and Ireland. Canadian conditions were treated by J. C. Waters, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and Gideon B. Robertson, senator, and vice-president of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

Those in attendance manifested especial interest in English conditions, and a summarization of the talks by Bowerman and Thomas shows:

A government act provides there shall be no stoppage of work upon war munitions and related industries. All differences shall be arbitrated. Where arbitration fails provision is made for settlement by government machinery

in which the employes are represented equally.

Women are employed where no men are out of work. Women must receive equal pay. Government agrees that the places of the men will be returned to them after the war. There are 1,250,000 women in industry who heretofore were not engaged in manual labor. The women are joining the trade union movement.

Munition workers are enrolled as munition volunteers and are assigned by the government to various parts of England. The highest wages of the district they left or in which they are now employed is paid. Every fortnight the government gives them free passes on railroads to visit their families, if away from home.

The fifty-one railroads in Great Britain are under State control on the basis of guaranteed profits of 1914. Some companies have turned back to the government large sums of money which is in excess of their 1914 profits.

Dock workers are enrolled in the army as civilians, and wear the British uniform. These workers must belong to the union, and are mobilized for the purpose of unloading cargoes in any section the government elects. This system was evolved by Lord Kitchener and trade union officials.

No move is made by the government without consulting trade union officials, many of whom are exempted from military service.

Landlords are prohibited from raising rents and the government prohibits employers from reducing wages of pensioned soldiers

who have returned to their former employment.

Wages have been increased in proportion to the increased cost of living. When workers demand higher rates, the first question asked is: "What is the increase in the cost of living?" That being ascertained, it is added.

The English trade union movement has a larger membership than before the war and it has surrendered no standards definitely, although some are suspended for the time being.

The government has given a pledge to reinstate every trade union practice now suspended.

The government joins with trade unionists in their opposition to child labor on the ground that if the war were won under those conditions it would be lost as future generations would be destroyed.

While the English trade unionists declined to predict future social conditions after the war, they were most optimistic. They declared it was impossible for the millions of men now fighting in the trenches of France and Flanders—employer and employe, from the mansion and even the slum—to return to their homes without having new viewpoints because of the sufferings and sacrifices of themselves and fellows.

The Canadian trade union representatives said the Dominion government has failed to take organized labor into its councils and the conditions the imperial government insists on in England in the manufacture of war munitions are not insisted upon in Canada, and that conditions related by the English unionists have not been secured in their country.

Other speakers included trade unionists and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Daniel Guggenheim. The visitors were questioned after the speaking.

The conference visited the White House and paid their respects to President Wilson. The chief executive, in replying to an address by President Gompers, dissented from those who advocate setting aside labor laws because of the war.

A FRANK ESTIMATE OF BILLY SUNDAY

Billy Sunday has just completed a revival campaign in Buffalo, and Eugene V. Debs, in addressing a public meeting in the same city, gave his frank opinion about the great soul-saver's work, as follows:

"Sunday is a survivor of the Stone Age. He is profoundly concerned about the spiritual welfare of folks and at the same time he is a supporter of the worst system that ever cursed the country. He is the pampered darling of the ruling class. He says that Rockefeller stands square with God. He vouches for Rockefeller and Rockefeller for him, but who is vouching for both of them? After Sunday is gone from your city six months, call the roll of the trail-hitters and see what has been accomplished. Things will be as they are now, except that Sunday will have added to the amount of the coin of the realm in his possession. He knows it pays to be a professional soul-saver and in the pay of the Rockefeller class. Billy Sunday has been quoted as saying that if he had \$1,000,000 he would give \$999,999 to religion and \$1 to education. His own education proves it, for he has a dollar education and that dollar must have been counterfeit. But Sunday ought to have nearly \$999,999. He can play to perfection the role of a mountebank. He would make a fine circus clown. He holds out the picture of a lurid hell if you don't hit the trail or drop a coin into the collection box."

General Auditor Briggs has been working between St. Louis, Detroit and Cleveland during the last thirty days. He reports that conditions in general in our unions are A No. 1. There seems to be a greater desire on the part of secretary-treasurers to obey the laws of the International Union. His health is not as good as we would wish it to be, but he is able to keep on his feet, and by his advice and instructions to the secretaries of our locals, he is continually improving the bookkeeping system in our unions; besides handling wage scales and other grievances whenever it becomes necessary for the General Office to request him to do so.

All along the line there is a tendency on the part of local unions to weed out the wrongdoers in our organization. Every now and then we have new examples of where men are relegated out of the organization when they attempt to do wrong. This is as it should be. Get rid of the bad actors. Our unions are business institutions and there is no room for grafters or wrongdoers. Neither do we want common disturbers who are continually agitating strikes. Their place is with the employers' organizations.

Organizer Ashton settled up a serious situation in Schenectady, where our men were on strike. He brought about a settlement getting an increase for the men and all returned to work under union conditions. He is now working in Philadelphia.

Ward Brothers, bakers, with institutions in many parts of the country, have recently signed up a union-shop agreement with the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union. The only city in the country where we have the drivers who are working for this company in our union is in the city of Chicago. Particular effort should be made by our members in the several cities where this company is operating, such as Washington, Boston, Philadelphia, Brooklyn and other places, to organize the drivers and chauffeurs. If Ward Brothers has the union label on their bread, which is a part of the contract signed by the Bakery Workers' International Union, they should be given to understand that it is not a union product as long as it is delivered by non-union drivers and chauffeurs.

Official Magazine
of the
International Brotherhood
of Teamsters, Chauffeurs
Stablemen *and* Helpers
of *America*

WEAR THE EMBLEM
of
OUR ORGANIZATION

ADVERTISE THE BUTTON AND EMBLEM



THE ABOVE CUTS REPRESENT THE

Button, Cuff Button and Watch Fob

SOLD BY THE GENERAL OFFICE

THE PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Buttons	\$.25 a piece
Cuff Buttons75 a pair
Watch Charms	1.50 a piece

All orders should be sent through the Secretary of the Local Union to

THOMAS L. HUGHES, Secretary

222 East Michigan Street

Indianapolis, Indiana